Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
OES-07 ERDA-05 SS-15 /046 W
----------021102Z 034705 /13
O 021026Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2016

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5688

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, TECH, SNAR
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS AFFECTING US/PAK RELATIONS

REF: A) SECTO 5021 B) SECTO 5027, C) STATE 125994

1. DURING MEETING ON JUNE SECOND WITH TAUQIR HUSSAIN, ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL (AMERICAS), EMBOFF INFORMED HUSSAIN OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S DENIAL, AS NOTED REFTEL A, CONCERNING NY TIMES STORY ON REPORCESSING PLANT. EMBOFF ADDED THAT THIS INFORMATION HAD ALREADY BEEN PASSED DR. HYDER IN PARIS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, BUT WE WANTED TO BE CERTAIN MFA WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF OUR POSITION. HUSSAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, SAID MFA KNEW ABOUT STORY BUT HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM DR. HYDER, AND HE WOULD PASS OUR POSITION ON TO FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, EMBOFF GAVE HUSSAIN PRESS BRIEFING PAPER THE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED, CONTAINED REFTEL C, TO BE USED IF ASKED ABOUT THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON NARCOTICS AND PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL SITUATION. HUSSAIN SAID MFA HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE ARTICLE. WHEN TOLD ABOUT ITS SUBSTANCE, HUSSAIN SAID IT WAS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE IT HAS APPEARED AT THIS TIME. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT
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O'KEEFE'S OPINION WAS STRICTLY PERSONAL, IN NO WAY REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE NSC, AND THAT WE AGREE THE CLAIM THAT STATE AND NSC BELIEVE MR. BHUTTO'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED IS UNFORTUNATE AND UNHELPFUL.

3. HUSSAIN SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

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HAD VOLUNTEERED THE STATEMENT RATHER THAN HOLDING IT ON AN "WASKED" BASIS. EMBOFF NOTED THAT OFTEN WHEN SUCH STATEMENTS ARE VOLUNTEERED BY THE SPOKESMAN, THE ISSUE RECEIVES GREATER PUBLICITY AND COVERAGE THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST THAT THE STORY DIE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND RECEIVE AS LITTLE ATTENTION OR SPECULATION AS POSSIBLE. HUSSAIN SAID HE WOULD BRING THE STORY AND THE PRESS GUIDANCE TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S ATTENTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2308228
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